

Personal Welfare Module, Unit 1  
• Weather and Terrain

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REFERENCE LIST

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|---|--|
| 1. Jīntiān <u>tiānqì</u> hěn hǎo.               | The weather is very nice today.                |
| 2. Nǐ lǎojiāde <u>qìhòu</u> zěnmeyàng?          | How is the climate in your hometown?           |
| 3. <u>Dōngtiān</u> hěn lěng.                    | It's cold in the winter.                       |
| 4. <u>Chángcháng</u> xià xuě.                   | It often snows.                                |
| 5. <u>Xiàtiān</u> hěn rè.                       | In the summer it's hot.                        |
| 6. Jīntiān <u>tiān qíng</u> le.                 | It cleared up today.                           |
| 7. Wǒ <u>juéde</u> Táizhōngde qìhòu hěn hǎo.    | I feel that Taichung's climate is very nice.   |
| 8. Shànghǎide dōngtiān hěn <u>shǎo</u> xià xuě. | It seldom snows in the winter in Shànghǎi.     |
| 9. Jīntiān zhèrde tiānqì hěn <u>liángkuai</u> . | The weather here is very cool today.           |
| 10. cháng                                       | often (alternate word for <u>chángcháng</u> .) |
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REFERENCE NOTES ON PART I

Jīntiān tiānqì hěn hǎo: Notice that the time word jīntiān "today" is placed before the subject, not directly before the verb here. Most time words of more than one syllable may come either before or after the subject, but in either case before the verb. Examples:

Qùnián wǒ hái bú huì xiě zì.      Last year I still couldn't write characters.

Wǒ xiànzài huì xiě yìdiǎn le.      Now I can write a little.

qìhòu: "climate" Also pronounced qìhou (with hou in the neutral tone).

Dōngtiān hěn lěng: "It's cold in winter" The adverb hěn is not translated here. Often hěn adds little or nothing to the intensity of the adjectival verb, and doesn't need to be translated by "very." Later, you may notice that sometimes we translate the hěn literally and sometimes we choose to omit it from the translation. It is not a matter of right and wrong; it is more a matter of feeling, and may be, we admit, a somewhat arbitrary decision.

chángcháng: "often, frequently, usually" An alternate form of this word is cháng.

Tā chángcháng qù Xiānggǎng.

She often goes to Hong Kong.

Tā cháng kàn bàozhǐ.

He often reads the newspaper.

The phrase "very often" is NOT formed by using hěn with cháng; instead, just use cháng or chángcháng. If you must stress that something happens very often, use a phrase like "every few days."

xià xuě: "to snow" or more literally "(there) falls snow." The subject xuě "snow" normally follows the verb xià "to descend." This reversal of subject and verb is the rule, not the exception, in weather expressions.

Òu, xià xuě le.

Oh, it's snowing.

Xià xuě ma? Bú xià.  
Yǒu méiyǒu xià xuě?  
Méiyǒu.  
Xià xuě le méiyǒu?  
Méiyǒu.

Is it snowing? No.

Jīntiān xià xuě bu xià xuě?

Is it going to snow today?

Xiànzài bú xià xuě le.

It's not snowing anymore.

tiān: "heaven, sky, day."

Aiya, wǒde tiān na!

Oh my heavens!

Tiān zhīdao!

Heaven only knows!

qíng: "to be clear, to clear up" In the sentence Tiān qíng le, the marker le tells us that a change has taken place. The meaning is not simply that the sky is clear, but that the sky is clear NOW, or rather, the sky has cleared up.

juéde "to feel" Here juéde is used to mean "to feel, to think, to have an opinion about something." It can also mean "to feel" in a physical way, as in "to feel sick." Nǐ juéde . . . zěnmeyàng? can be well translated as "How do you like . . . ?"

hěn shǎo: "It seldom snows in Shànghǎi in the winter." The adjectival verb shǎo "to be few" is used here as an adverb "seldom," and as such comes before the verb. Notice that hěn shǎo, "seldom," and chángcháng, "often," are used as opposites.

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English is no more logical when it comes to weather expressions: it uses the meaningless subject "it," as in "It snows."

Jīntiān zhèrde tiānqì hěn liángkuai: "Today the weather here is very cool." Again, it is not necessary to translate hěn as "very" in this sentence; the meaning depends on the speaker's intonation and emphasis.

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FIRST DIALOGUE FOR PART I

An American woman is talking with a Chinese man in Běijīng.

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| M: | Jīntiān tiānqì hěn hǎo,<br>shì bu shì?   | The weather is very good today,<br>isn't it?   |
| F: | Shì a! Jīntiān tiān qíng le.   | It is! Today it has cleared up.  |
| M: | Nǐ lǎojiāde qìhòu zěnmeyàng?   | What's the climate like where<br>you're from?  |
| F: | Wǒ lǎojiā zài Jiùjīnshān. Nàrde<br>qìhòu hěn hǎo. Dōngtiān bù<br>lěng, xiàtiān yě bú tài rè. | My hometown is San Francisco. The<br>climate there is very good. It<br>isn't cold in the winter, and it<br>isn't too hot in the summer,<br>either. |
| M: | Nǐ juéde Běijīng zěnmeyàng?  | How do you like Běijīng? [Literally,<br>"How do you feel Běijīng is?"]   |
| F: | Zhèi jǐtiān Běijīng tiāntiān xià<br>xuě, tài lěng le.  | It's been snowing these last few<br>days in Běijīng and it's been too<br>cold.   |
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NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

juéde: "to feel" This may mean "to feel (physically)" or "to feel (emotionally), to think." It is often used, as in the Reference List sentence, to preface a statement of opinion. Wǒ juéde ... may sometimes be translated as "I think that ..."

Wǒ juéde tā kéyì zuò. I think he can do it.

And here are some examples using juéde to mean "feel (physically)":

Wǒ juéde hěn rè. I feel hot.

Wǒ juéde bù shūfu. I don't feel well. (Literally, "I  
feel not-well.")

Nǐ juéde Běijīng zěnmeyàng?: "How do you like Běijīng?" or "What do you think of Běijīng?" More literally, "You feel Běijīng is how?"

tài lěng le: "it's been too cold" The marker le is the marker for new situations. It is often used to reinforce the idea of "excessive." Another example is Tài guì le! "It's too expensive!"

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SECOND DIALOGUE FOR PART I

An American woman is talking with a Chinese man in Taipei.

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| M: | Nǐ lǎojiā zài nǎlǐ?  | Where's your hometown?  |
| F: | Zài Niǔ Yuē.   | It's New York.  |
| M: | Niǔ Yuēde qìhòu zěnmeyàng?   | What is New York's climate like?  |
| F: | Niǔ Yuēde qìhòu bú tài hǎo.<br>Dōngtiān lěng, xiàtiān rè.<br>Nǐ lǎojiā zài nǎlǐ?         | New York's climate isn't too good.<br>It's cold in the winter and hot<br>in the summer. Where's your<br>hometown. |
| M: | Zài Shànghǎi. Shànghǎide dōng-<br>tiān hěn shǎo xià xuě, kěshì<br>yě hěn lěng.           | It's Shanghai. It seldom snows in<br>Shanghai in the winter, but it's<br>cold there, too.                         |
| F: | Xiàtiān zěnmeyàng?   | What's it like in the summer?   |
| M: | Òu, xiàtiān hěn rè.  | Oh, it's hot in the summer.   |
| F: | Jīntiān zhèrde tiānqì hěn liáng-<br>kuai. Wǒmen chūqu zǒuzou <sup>*</sup> hǎo<br>bu hǎo? | The weather today is cool. Let's go<br>out and walk around, okay?   |
| M: | Hǎo.   | Okay.   |
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NOTE ON THE DIALOGUE

\* zǒuzou: "to walk around"

PART II

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| 11. Dōngtiān chángcháng <u>guā fēng</u> .                  | It's often windy in the winter.              |
| 12. Sānyuè <u>jiù kāishǐ nuǎnhuo</u> le.                   | By March it is already starting to get warm. |
| 13. Chūntiān hěn <u>duǎn</u> .                             | Spring is very short.                        |
| 14. Xiàtiān <u>yǒude shíhou xià yǔ</u> .                   | It sometimes rains in the summer.            |
| 15. Qiūtiān <u>zuì hǎo</u> .                               | Fall is the best (season).                   |
| 16. Nǐ shì shénme shíhou <u>líkāi Běijīngde</u> ?          | When did you leave Běijīng?                  |
| 17. Wǒ zhēn <u>xiǎng</u> Jiāzhōu.                          | I really miss California.                    |
| 18. Xiàtiān bú shì hěn <u>chǎoshǐ</u> .                    | It's not very humid in the summer.           |
| 19. <u>Tīngshuō</u> Táiwān chángcháng <u>guā táifēng</u> . | I hear that Taiwan often has typhoons.       |
| 20. cháng  | to be long                                   |
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REFERENCE NOTES ON PART II

guā fēng: "(there) blows wind" Guā literally means "to scrape," but when used in connection with fēng, "wind," it means "to blow." Like other weather expressions, such as xià xuě "to snow," the subject fēng usually follows the verb guā. To say "very windy," you say that the wind is big, either Fēng hěn dà or Guā dà fēng.

Sānyuè: "by March" A time word before the verb may mean "by" a certain time as well as "at" a certain time.

Sānyuè jiù kāishǐ nuǎnhuo le: "By March it is already starting to get warm." When the time word before it is given extra stress, the adverb jiù indicates that the event in question happens earlier than might be expected. The marker le after the state verb nuǎnhuo, "to be warm," tells us that it is being used here as a process verb, "to get warm."

yǒude shíhou: "sometimes" This is also said as yǒu shíhou.

xià yǔ: "to rain" Literally, "(there) falls rain." Now you have seen three weather expressions where the subject normally follows the verb: xià xuě, guā fēng and xià yǔ.

Wǒ zhēn xiǎng Jiāzhōu: "I really miss California" The verb xiǎng, translated here as "to miss," is the same verb as "to think" ("I really think of California [with nostalgia]").

xiàtiān bú shì hǎn cháo shǐ: "It's not very humid in the summer." The shì is not obligatory in the sentence. It would also be correct to say bù hǎn cháo shǐ.

táifēng: "typhoon" The Chinese word táifēng was borrowed into the English language as "typhoon."

FIRST DIALOGUE FOR PART II

An American woman is talking with a Chinese man in Hong Kong:

F: Nǐ líkāi Běijīng duōshǎo nián le? How many years has it been since  
you left Běijīng?

M: Yǐjīng yǒu èrshíbānián le. It's already been twenty-eight years.

F: Nǐ líkāi zhème jiǔ, xiǎng bu xiǎng Běijīng? It's been so long since you left, do you miss Běijīng?

M: Yǒu shíhòu xiǎng. Sometimes I miss it.

F: Tīngshuō Běijīng qiūtiānde  
tiānqì zuì hǎo, shì bu shì? I hear that the autumn weather in  
Běijīng is the best, isn't it?

M: Duì le, qiūtiānde tiānqì zuì  
hǎo, bù lěng yě bù rè. Right, the autumn weather is the  
best; it's neither cold nor hot.

F: Dōngtian xià xuě ma? Does it snow in the winter?

M: Dōngtiān yǒu shíhòu xià xuě,  
yě chángcháng guā fēng. It sometimes snows in the winter,  
and it's often windy, too.

F: Shénme shíhou kāishǐ nuǎnhuo?      When does it start to get warm?

M: Sānyuè jiù kāishǐ nuǎnhuó le.      It starts to get warm by March.  
Kěshì chūntiān hěn duǎn,      But the spring is very short,  
Wǔyuè jiù rè le.      In May it starts to get hot.

F: Xiàtiān cháoshǐ ma? Is it humid in the summer?

M: Xiàtiān yǒude shíhòu xià yǔ,  
kěshì bú shì hěn cháoshī. It sometimes rains in the summer,  
but it's not very humid.

NOTE ON THE DIALOGUE

Nǐ líkāi zhème jiǔ: "It's been so long since you left" You have seen jiǔ, which means "to be long in time," in the phrase duō jiǔ, "how long (a time)"

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SECOND DIALOGUE FOR PART II

An American woman is talking with a Chinese man in Taipei:

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| M: | Nǐ juéde Táiběi chūntiānde<br>tiānqì hǎo bu hǎo?   | Do you feel that the spring weather<br>in Taipei is good?  |
| F: | Wǒ juéde zhèlǐde chūntiān hěn<br>hǎo, Sānyuè jiù nuǎnhuo le.<br>Kěshì wǒ tīngshuō xiàtiān hěn<br>rè, duì bu duì? | I feel the spring here is very good.<br>It gets warm in March. But I hear<br>the summer is hot, right? |
| M: | Duì le. Zhèlǐde xiàtiān hěn<br>rè, chángcháng xià yǔ, hěn<br>chǎoshǐ.  | Right. The summer here is very hot,<br>and it often rains; it's very<br>humid.                         |
| F: | Tīngshuō yě chángcháng guā<br>táifēng.   | I've also heard that there are often<br>typhoons.  |
| M: | Duì le.  | Yes.   |
| F: | Táiběide qiūtiān ne?   | How about the fall in Taipei?  |
| M: | Òu, Jiǔ-Shíyuè hái hěn rè,<br>Shíyíyuè jiù liángkuai le.   | Oh, in September and October it's<br>still hot. By November it gets<br>cool.                           |
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PART III

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|---|---|
| 21. Nǐ lǎojiā zài <u>chéngli</u><br>háishi zài <u>xiāngxià</u> ?      | Is your home in the city or in the<br>country?            |
| 22. Nàli yǒu <u>shān</u> , yǒu <u>sēnlín</u> ,<br>hái yǒu <u>hú</u> . | There are mountains and forests there,<br>and lakes, too. |
| 23. <u>Fēngjǐng</u> hěn hǎo, <u>kōngqì</u><br>hěn <u>xīnxiān</u> .    | The scenery is very nice and the air<br>is fresh.         |
| 24. Nǐ lǎojiā <u>fùjìn</u> de <u>huánjìng</u><br>zěnmeyàng?           | What's the country like where you're<br>from?             |
| 25. Nǐ lǎojiā nèige dìfang<br>yǒu duōshǎo <u>rénkǒu</u> ?             | What's the population of your<br>hometown?                |
| 26. Yǒu wǔqiān rén <u>zuǒyòu</u> .                                    | There are about five thousand<br>people.                  |
| 27. Nàr méiyǒu <u>kōngqì wūrǎn</u> .                                  | There's no air pollution there.                           |
| 28. <u>Hǎibiān</u> hěn <u>qīngjìng</u> .                              | The seashore is very quiet.                               |
| 29. Zhèr fùjìn yǒu <u>hé</u> ma?                                      | Are there any rivers in this area?                        |
| 30. <u>chéng</u>  | city  |

REFERENCE NOTES ON PART III

chéngli: "in the city," literally "inside the city wall."

xiāngxià: "country" Also pronounced xiāngxia (with neutral tone xià).

fùjìn: "vicinity" Also pronounced fǔjìn.

huánjìng: "environment, surroundings," In No. 24 the phrase nǐ lǎojiā fùjìnde huánjìng is literally "the environment of the vicinity of your original home."

nǐ lǎojiā nèige dìfang: "your hometown" Lǎojiā by itself only means "original home." To get the meaning "hometown," you must refer to the place (nèige dìfang) where your "original home" (lǎojiā) is. Notice the different phrasing in the following sentences:

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| Nǐ lǎojiā <u>nèige dìfang</u> yǒu<br>duōshǎo <u>rénkǒu</u> ? | What's the population of your<br>hometown?          |
| Nǐ lǎojiā <u>nàr</u> yǒu méiyǒu <u>shān</u> ?                | Are there mountains where your<br>original home is? |
| Nǐ lǎojiā zài <u>xiāngxià</u> ma?                            | Is your original home in the country?               |



shān, hú, hé: "mountain, lake, river" These three words are used with the four points of the compass to make several province names.

Shāndōng	east of the (Tàiháng) mountains
Shānxī	west of the (Tàiháng) mountains
Héběi	north of the (Yellow) river
Hénán	south of the (Yellow) river
Húběi	north of the (Dòngtíng) lake
Húnán	south of the (Dòngtíng) lake

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FIRST DIALOGUE FOR PART III

An American woman is talking with a Chinese man in Běijīng:

M: Nǐ lǎojiā fùjīnde huánjīng zěnmeyàng?	What's the country like where you're from?
F: Wǒ lǎojiāde fùjīn yǒu hěn duō shān.	There are a lot of mountains near where I'm from.
M: Nèige xiǎo chéngde fēngjǐng hěn hǎo ba!	That little town must have very good scenery!
F: Duì le. Nàrde fēngjǐng hěn hǎo. Yǒu sēnlín, hái yǒu hé.	Right. The scenery there is very good. There are forests and also rivers.
M: Nàrde kōngqì hěn xīnxiān ba.	I suppose the air there is very fresh.
F: Shì a! Nàr méiyǒu kōngqì wūrǎn.	Yes! There is no air pollution there.
M: Nèige xiǎo chéng yǒu duōshǎo rénǔ?	What's the population of that little town?
F: Yǒu sìqiān rén zuǒyòu.	There are about four thousand people.

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NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

nèige xiǎo chéng: "that little town" You've learned that chénglǐ means "in the city." One word for "city" by itself is chéng [another is chéngshì].

Nǐ shuōde shì nǐge Huáshèngdùn?      Which Washington are you talking  
Shì zhōu háishì chéng?                      about? The state or the city?

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SECOND DIALOGUE FOR PART III

An American woman is talking with a Chinese man in Taipei:

- M: Nǐ lǎojiā zài chénglǐ háishi zài xiāngxià? Is your home in the city or in the country?
- F: Zài xiāngxià. Nàli yǒu shān, yǒu sēnlín, hái yǒu hú. Fēngjǐng hěn hǎo. Wǒ líkāi nàli yǐjīng yǒu wǔnián le. Wǒ hěn xiǎng wǒde lǎojiā. It's in the country. There are mountains there, and forests, and lakes, too. The scenery is very good. It's already been five years since I left there. I miss my original home very much.
- M: Nǐ lǎojiā nèige dìfāng yǒu duōshǎo rénkǒu? What's the population of your hometown?
- F: Sānqiān rén zuǒyòu. About three thousand.
- M: Nà hěn qīngjìng ba? Then it must be very quiet, I suppose?
- F: Duì le, hěn qīngjìng. Kōngqì yě xīnxiān. Nǐde jiā zài Zhānghuà shénme dìfāng? Right, it's very quiet. The air is fresh, too. What part of Changhua is your home in?
- M: Zài Tiánzhōng fùjìn. Nàli fēngjǐng yě hěn hǎo, méiyǒu kōngqì wūrǎn. Near T'ienchung. The scenery there is also very nice, and there's no air pollution.
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NOTES ON THE DIALOGUE

Wǒ líkāi nàli yǐjīng yǒu wǔnián le: "(Since) I left there it has been five years." The marker le at the end of the sentence is new-situation le, and is necessary here. It shows that the duration stated (five years) is as of the present moment ("so far"). Another point to bear in mind is that le is used at the end of most sentences containing yǐjīng.

Zhānghuà, "Changhua," is the name of a city and a county on the west coast of central Taiwan. T'ienchung (Tiánzhōng) is a village in southeastern Changhua county.

Unit 1, Vocabulary

cháng	often
chángcháng	often
cháoshī	to be humid
chéng	city, town
chéngli	in the city
chūntiān (chūntian)	spring
dōngtiān (dōngtian)	winter
duǎn	to be short
fēng	wind
fēngjǐng	scenery
fùjìn (fǔjìn)	area, neighborhood
guā	to blow (of wind, typhoons, etc.)
hǎibiān(r)	seashore
hé	river
hú	lake
huánjìng	environment
juéde	to feel
kāishǐ	to begin, to start
kōngqì (kōngqi)	air
kōngqì wūrǎn	air pollution
lěng	to be cold
liángkuai	to be cool
líkai	to leave
nuǎnhuo	to be warm
qìhòu (qìhou)	climate
qíng	to be clear
qǐngjìng	to be quiet
qiūtiān (qiūtian)	fall, autumn
rè	to be hot
rénkǒu	population
sēnlín	forest
shān	mountain
shǎo	to be few; seldom
táifēng	typhoon
tiān	sky, heaven
tiānqì (tiānqi)	weather
tīngshuō	to hear that, to hear it said
wūrǎn	pollution

xiǎng	to miss, to think of
xiāngxià (xiāngxia)	in the country, the countryside
xiàtiān (xiàtian)	summer
xià xuě	to snow
xià yǔ	to rain
xīnxiān (xīnxian)	to be fresh
yǒu(de) shíhou	sometimes
zuì	most, -est
zuǒyòu	approximately, about